



March 12, 2015

Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

On behalf of the SMART Transportation Division (formerly the United Transportation Union), I respectfully request that you cosponsor S. 697, the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*, introduced on March 10, 2015 by Senators Tom Udall and David Vitter.

As the U.S. chemical industry undertakes a wave of domestic investment to construct new facilities, your support for legislation that would significantly improve our nation's chemical safety laws is critical. The chemical industry directly and indirectly supports millions of good-paying American jobs - including a significant number of our members' jobs through the substantial tonnage of chemical shipments on the nation's freight railroads.

Signed into law in 1976, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) has never been amended and no longer works as Congress intended. S. 697 would amend and strengthen Title I of the TSCA to improve public safety, as well as protect American workers and the environment. This legislation is the result of years of bipartisan negotiation aimed at making the TSCA into an effective and achievable regulatory success.

Specifically, it will accomplish several key goals, such as restoring public confidence in federal chemical safety regulations, recognizing the role of states in the chemical regulatory system, using the best information possible to make chemical safety determinations, achieving greater transparency while protecting confidential business information and promoting job growth in the U.S. chemical industry.

I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and look forward to continuing to work together as this bill makes its way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Risch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Risch
National Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division